

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 0383

E. O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: COMMUNIST DAILY EMPHASIZES IDF ISSUE

REF: REYKJAVIK 0380

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. INDICATING PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE LEADERS EFFORTS TO REACTIVATE IDF ISSUE DAILY ORGAN THJODVILJINN PUBLISHED SEVERAL ARTICLES IN APRIL 11 ISSUE CRITICIZING ASPECTS OF IDF PRESENCE. RENEWED PRESS ATTENTION OBVIOUSLY DESIGNED TO AROUSE PUBLIC OPPOSITION TO IDF AND FORCE GOVERNMENT TO GIVE NOTICE OF INTENTION UNDER ARTICLE VII OF DEFENSE AGREEMENT TO RENEGOTIATE OR TERMINATE SOON. END SUMMARY.

2. THJODVILJINN, THE DAILY ORGAN OF THE COMMUNIST- DOMINATED PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE, PUBLISHED SEVERAL ARTICLES CRITICAL OF IDF IN APRIL 11 ISSUE. FRONT PAGE FOLLOWED UP ON STORIES THAT PETROLEUM LEAKING FROM UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS AT KEFLAVIK IS ENDANGERING WATER SUPPLIES. ACCORDING TO ARTICLE THREE MEMBERS OF COUNTY COUNCIL OF NJARDVIK, WHO HAVE WORKED CLOSELY WITH IDF, HAVE RELEASED REPORT STATING THAT " THOUSANDS OF LITERS OF OIL " HAVE ENTERED THE GROUND AROUND KEFLAVIK, NECESSITA-
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TING CLOSING OF FOUR WATER WELLS. REPORT PREDICTS FUTURE SITUATION OF " COMPLETE DISASTER" FOR DRINKING WATER SUPPLIES IN SOUTHERN PART OF REYKJANES PENINSULA. ARTICLE STATES THAT IT IT " MINIMAL DEMAND" THAT STORAGE FACILITIES BE PLACED ABOVE GROUND SO THAT LEAKS MAY BE DETECTED. ARTICLE CLAIMS THAT IDF HAS IGNORED ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS AND QUOTES REPORT AS SAYING THAT IDF " CONDUCT AND METHODS OF GETTING RID OF GARBAGE ARE BEYOND WORDS."

3. FULL PAGE COMPANION ARTICLE IN CENTER SECTION OF THJODVILJINN WRITTEN BY NJARDVIK COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER ODDBERGUR EIRIKSSON, PURPORTS TO SUBSTANTIATE CHARGES. ACCORDING TO EIRIKSSON, STANDARDS OF WASTE DISPOSAL ESTABLISHED ELSEWHERE IN REYKJANES PENINSULA ARE NOT OBSERVED BY IDF. PETROLEUM, CHEMICAL AND OTHER WASTES ARE ALLOWED TO SEEP INTO THE GROUND " IN THE SCORES OF TONS BECAUSE OF ACCIDENTS, NEGLIGENCE, OR LACK OF KNOW-HOW".

4. SECOND FRONT PAGE ARTICLE REPORTS ARREST OF FIVE IDF MEMBERS APRIL 8 ON DRUG SALE CHARGES. CASE REPORTEDLY INVOLVED SALE OF UNIDENTIFIED DRUG, PROBABLY HASHISH, TO ICELANDIC NATIONALS AT A DANCE IN AKRANES. ARTICLE CLAIMED THAT THIS WAS FIRST CASE INVOLVING DRUG SALES OUTSIDE OF KEFLAVIK BASE AREA.

5. THJODVILJINN'S EDITORIAL RETURNED POINTEDLY TO CONSISTENT PA THEME THAT EXPULSION OF IDF IS PRIME POLICY OBJECTIVE OF GOVERNMENT. ARGUMENT IS MADE THAT 1971 ELECTION WAS VICTORY FOR PA AND ORGANIZATION OF LIBERALS AND LEFTISTS (OLL). MOVEMENT TO LEFT WAS BROUGHT ABOUT BY " POLITICAL MOTIVATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE OF ICELAND." XISTENCE OF GOVERNMENT IS DUE TO THIS TREND AND ITS TERM OF OFFICE WILL DEPEND ON HOW SUCCESSFULLY " IT WILL BE ABLE TO KEEP THE TRUST OF THE PEOPLE WHO BROUGHT IT TO POWER, ESPECIALLY YOUNG PEOPLE". WITHDRAWAL OF IDF IS CORNERSTONE OF COALITION. THIS ISSUE HAS BEEN MOVING SLOWLY. INTENTION OF COALITION PARTIES TO IMPEMNT IDF EXPULSION CLAUSE IN POLICY PLATFORM IS NOT DOUBTED (IMPLICATIONS BEING THAT PA INTENDS TO KEEP THE FAITH AND WILL FORCE OTHERS TO DO SO). EDITORIAL CALLS FOR FORMAL TALKS, FOR WHICH PREPARATIONS WERE MADE BY FONMIN AGUSTSSON DURING HIS JANUARY VISIT TO WASHINGTON, TO BEGIN. EDITORIAL RECALLS THAT PA DID NOT GET AGREEMENT FROM COALITION PARTNERS TO SUPPORT DEMAND THAT

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ICELAND WITHDRAW FROM NATO. ONLY AGREEMENT WAS ON WITHDRAWAL

OF IDF. THIS AGREEMENT MUST BE KEPT IT GOVERNMENT IS " TO RETAIN ITS HONOR".

6. COMMENT: HAVING ORIGINALLY SUCCEEDED IN OBTAINING WITHDRAWAL PROMISE IN POLICY STATEMENT, PA IS IN A STRONG POSITION TO PRESS FOR INVOCATION OF ARTICLE VII OF DEFENSE AGREEMENT. INDECISIVE PROGRESSIVE PARTY LEADERS, FACED WITH DISSENSION IN THEIR RANKS, ARE WIDE OPEN TO PA PRESSURE. IF THEY VACILLATE TOO LONG THEY ARE SUBJECT TO CHARGE OF RENEGING ON VITAL POLICY OBJECTIVE. IF THEY SUBMIT TO PA PRESSURE AND FORCE ALMOST CERTAIN PARTY SCHISM AND BREAK-UP OF GOVERNMENT, PA STANDS READY TO CLAIM THAT IT DID EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO KEEP GOVERNMENT'S PROMISE TO ELECTORATE BUT WAS SABOTAGED BY OTHER PARTIES. EDITORIAL COULD WELL BE WORK OF COMMUNIST MINISTER OF INDUSTRIES AND HEALTH MAGNUS KIARTANSSON.

7. PETROLEUM LEAKAGE STORY IS INACCURATE. LAST LEAKAGE OCCURRED IN 1959. RECENT INVESTIGATION OF SEVERAL UNDERGROUND TANKS REVEALS NO LEAKAGE.
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